

PROCLAMATION

STATE OF FLORIDA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
TALLAHASSEE

**TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA SENATE AND
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

WHEREAS, the State of Florida on October 19, 2005, obtained federal approval of the State's Medicaid waiver application, which was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); and

WHEREAS, such federal approval allows Florida to overhaul Medicaid and create a system that empowers patients and expands access to best serve more than 2.2 million vulnerable, disabled and elderly Floridians; and

WHEREAS, the current Medicaid program is a large, complex, and cumbersome system, which is difficult for Floridians to navigate and manage; is costly and inefficient; lacks incentives for early identification of illness, disease management, and access to specialty care; and fails to empower beneficiaries to make choices or be rewarded for responsible behavior; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid costs the State of Florida \$15 billion annually, and could consume nearly 60 percent of the State's budget by 2015 if left unaddressed; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 regular session of the Legislature adjourned on May 6, 2005, without implementation of the amendment to the State Constitution authorizing slot machines at certain pari-mutuel facilities in Broward County; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the people of the State of Florida that the Legislature enact legislation that will reform Florida's Medicaid program and complete its work on implementation of the amendment approved by the voters to authorize slots in certain pari-mutuel facilities in Broward County;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeb Bush, Governor of the State of Florida, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Article III, Section 3(c)(1), Florida Constitution, do hereby proclaim as follows:

Section 1.


The Legislature of the State of Florida is convened in Special Session commencing at 1:00 p.m., Monday, December 5, 2005, and extending through 11:59 p.m., Friday, December 9, 2005.

Section 2.

The Legislature of the State of Florida is convened for the sole and exclusive purpose of considering the following:

- A. Legislation implementing reforms of Florida's Medicaid system, consistent with the waiver application and the Special Terms and Conditions approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on October 19, 2005; and
- B. Legislation authorizing, regulating and taxing the operation of slot machines.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed to this Proclamation convening the Legislature in Special Session at the Capitol, this 4th day of November, 2005.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE